

# California State Journal of Medicine.

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PHILIP MILLS JONES, M. D., Secretary and Editor

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Fresno *Republican*, in its issue for October 3rd, refers to an editorial in the JOURNAL for September in which we said that the Governor had been quoted as saying that he desired to see a reciprocity amendment to the present medical law that would permit anyone licensed in any state to get a license and be permitted to practice in California. The *Republican* says: "Of course there is no possibility that Governor Johnson ever made so foolish a remark; in fact, we do not know that he has given this question of medical reciprocity any attention at all." There are quite evidently a good many things that the *Republican* does not know and a good many things that it ought to find out if it is the purpose and intention of the *Republican* to serve the best interests and the future health of the people of California. And by-the-way, how can the *Republican* speak so positively, be so cock-sure that the Governor never made "so foolish a remark"? Is the *Republican* in possession of absolute knowledge of everything the Governor has ever said? How wonderful, to be so well posted; and what awful liars the men were who told us that the Governor had made that statement to them! (Singularly, all of these men had taken the examination, failed to pass and then gone to the Governor to see if he could help them!) If the *Republican* is so thoroughly posted on what Governor Johnson has and has not said, and by implication, upon what Governor Johnson has or has not given attention to, why, then, we would ask the *Republican* to tell us just what reasons Governor Johnson had for doing the following things:

Approved an amendment to the medical law

drawn in the interest of a notorious quack and allowing anyone who had successfully broken the law of the state for 15 years to get a license to continue to be a quack!

Vetoed a bill appropriating funds for the State Board of Health to continue its small share of the burden of plague-infected squirrel destruction, thus left the State Board of Health absolutely without funds almost compelling the Federal authorities to stop their part of the work.

Vetoed or allowed to die somewhere in the neighborhood of 80% of all the public health bills that managed to get through the legislature.

Is there anything in these acts, which can be very easily verified or disproved, to make one have unfaltering faith in the intention of Governor Johnson to strengthen rather than to break down laws intended for the protection of the people? Can the *Republican* explain these matters to our benighted intelligence? Does the *Republican* know that a few years ago, when the medical standards required in this state were the same as they are now and when there was a clause in the law permitting reciprocity, New York refused to reciprocate with California on the ground that our standards were too low? This also can be easily verified or disproved so it can hardly be a part of the "straw man" the *Republican* accuses us of erecting. Can the *Republican* give us any information on these matters or can it merely call names and impugn motives?

Last month the JOURNAL published an editorial note referring to the attitude of antagonism toward

all things related to scientific medicine and public health which some PESSIMISM OR SENSE? have considered too "pessimistic."

They would not so consider it were they to a greater degree conversant with the facts or could they realize the true import of daily happenings. Let us consider some things in and about the *Long Island Medical Journal*, the Official Organ of the Associated Physicians of Long Island; presumably, owned by them. In the September number is an editorial entitled "What is the public doing for us?" The first sentence is this: "Last winter and spring the medical profession came in for more than its share of unfair criticism at the hands of the daily press and a few of the monthly magazines." You see, on Long Island the feeling of unrest and antagonism is recognized. A letter is included in the editorial; it refers to a newly organized "Physicians' League" which shall deal with economic and sociologic problems only; such things as lodge practice, rich patients and dispensaries, losing patients to hospitals, adverse legislation, etc. The suggestion all through this and two other editorials in the same issue, is that physicians should organize and force the public to behave. But let us see where these evils are. "Lodge practice"; an evil strictly within the medical profession due to greed or necessity; commercialization of a learned profession; medical treatment at cut rates. "Rich patients and dispensaries"; again an evil strictly within our profession due to greed for "material"; building up a

ited so that a careful examination was impossible. Dr. O'Brien who conducted the examination found, however, that irregular portions of the small intestine were distended while other portions of the intestine were found collapsed. The distension was apparently due to a paralysis of the intestinal wall. The walls of the intestine were deeply congested in areas but nowhere was found any indication of peritonitis. The time did not permit opening of the thorax or the examination of the brain and the nervous system generally which was exceedingly desirable under the circumstances.

#### CONCLUSIONS.

1. The most important conclusion is that pellagra has been found to exist in three cases out of 180 consecutive cases admitted to a private sanitarium.

2. None of the three cases was imported to the Western coast, but evidently originated there.

3. None of the patients belonged to poverty-stricken class of people. In all cases, however, nutritional disturbances preceded a long time the development of definite evidences of pellagra.

4. In one case there is a definite history of long use of vegetable oils and this case happened to be the most acute, affecting the nervous system to the greatest extent and terminating fatally in the shortest time.

5. All three cases evidently originated without any infection from similar cases and there is no evidence that anyone was so afflicted as a result of contact with them.

6. While it can not be said that pellagra had been a causative factor in the mental or nervous breakdown of any of the three cases, it is evident that in every case it has greatly and in a detrimental way influenced the mental and nervous condition.

7. Cacodylate of sodium, tried in two of the three cases has not had any lasting beneficial effect upon the disease. The same is true of all other treatment attempted.

8. The final conclusion is that there is a real need of close study of that disease, first of all a diligent search for all cases suffering from it. It is more than likely that the number of its victims all over the United States, therefore also in California, far exceeds the estimates of most physicians.

#### NOTICE OF MEETING.

A meeting of the Northern California District Medical Society will be held in Chico on Tuesday, November 12th. A very interesting program has been provided for this meeting, and several papers will be read by physicians from San Francisco.

#### THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BACTERIA IN MILK.

By S. LEVIN, Ph. G., Ph. C.

From the Laboratory of the Napa State Hospital, Napa, California.

The advanced step which has been taken by several public health institutions and the prominence which the propaganda for clean milk has gained recently means much to the welfare of the general public. Milk, which constitutes one of the most important foods for the sick and convalescent, an article which replaces the mother's

feeding to the infant, a foodstuff which, because of its highly nutritious properties, enters almost every household in our communities, has not been given the consideration it deserves.

To our gratification, in several large cities, rules and uniform standards have been adopted, and laws enforced, which enable the sanitary condition of the public milk supply to be controlled; but, in the majority of cases, up-to-date methods of public hygiene and sanitation as far as milk is concerned have been almost entirely neglected. The standards adopted by some cities for the control of the milk are so incomplete that they do not give sufficient guaranty as to its cleanliness. The chemical standard of milk, which is one of the most prominent points in various places in their milk ordinances, is of secondary importance from a standpoint of public health. While it safeguards the people from fraudulent methods in business transactions, it almost entirely ignores its sanitary condition.

It has been agreed by numerous workers after thorough investigations along the line of the bacteriological examination of milk, that milk, by itself, is practically sterile and the high number of bacteria usually found in commercial milk is due to external contamination only.

Rosenau<sup>1</sup> has found respectively 60, 160, 400, and 500 bacteria per c. c. of milk from individual cows by applying sufficient cleanliness.

Wellem and Miele<sup>2</sup> have obtained milk containing two and one-half bacteria per c. c., using aseptic methods.

Wyman<sup>3</sup> claims that milk can be obtained from healthy cows in small quantities entirely free from micro-organisms.

The writer has obtained samples from healthy cows by applying ordinary precautions as to cleanliness as low as 0, 40, 60, 70, 80, 100, 120, and 160 bacteria per c. c.

To establish the difference in the number of bacteria present in milk where precautions as to the milking and handling of same are taken and of that where methods of sanitation are ignored, a series of experiments were undertaken.

The isolation of the pathogenic organisms was not attempted, except that in the case of the mixed milk *B. coli* were looked for.

The media, plating, and the procedure of the examination were made in accordance with the standard methods adopted by the laboratory section of the American Public Health Association.

I am indebted to Mr. C. N. Whitaker, Steward of Napa State Hospital, for his kindness in placing the necessary material and cows at my disposal which made the undertaking possible.

Experiment No. 1. A herd of twenty cows was taken from a dairy where the most rudimentary sanitary principles connected with the obtaining of milk were neglected; barn yards filthy, cows dirty, milk utensils washed with water found to be contaminated with *B. coli*, milkers of slovenly appearance to whom personal hygiene was unknown, pails wide-mouthed, which, in case the cow should happen to urinate in the process of milking, would not prevent the urine from dripping into the contents of the pail.

Experiment No. 2. Samples obtained under same

### DR. VON NOORDEN'S VISIT.

During October Dr. von. Noorden, Professor of Internal Medicine at the Imperial University of Vienna, visited California and had a rather busy time of it. On the 15th he addressed the San Francisco County Medical Society on the Modern Aspects of the Theory and Treatment of Diabetes; on the 18th he addressed the students at the University of California and on the same night was given a banquet by the County Medical Society at the Hotel St. Francis. He was also the guest of honor at many private dinners, etc.

### WHAT IS MEMBERSHIP WORTH?

To the Editor of the State Journal:—I wish to write and thank the State Medical Society for the manner in which it looked after the defense of the malpractice suit brought against me, and recently tried. The defense undertaken by the Society was thorough and the whole profession should realize the necessity of having the Society back of them in these malpractice cases which any physician is liable to have brought against him in the course of his practice.

Very truly yours,

(— —)

### SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The Board of Directors, General Council, and members of "The California Society for the Prevention of Blindness" met together at the semi-annual luncheon of the Society on September 17, 1912, at the Hotel Stewart, San Francisco, to talk over its publicity campaign and the ways and means necessary to further the legislative action in California.

Dr. C. S. G. Nagel, president, in a cordial greeting, strongly urged those present to leave no avenue unopened that could lead to the ends desired.

Dr. Adelaide Brown followed in a strong appeal for the co-operation of the medical societies throughout the state and that the active influence of all woman's clubs should be obtained so that proper legislative action could be obtained, that California may become the fifth state to pass the laws required.

Dr. Milligan, who has recently come to California to assume the superintendency of the Deaf and Blind Institute, at Berkeley, was warmly welcomed, and he especially advocated the support and influence to be obtained from the publicity and co-operation of the daily press.

Dr. Newell Perry, so sure to know the requirements necessary, spoke feelingly of the needs of the blind and of the great necessity for establishing financial foundations to carry on any work successfully for the amelioration of the condition of the sightless.

Dean J. Wilmer Gresham, of Grace Pro-Cathedral, promised his personal aid in every way possible to further the cause.

Mr. Adolphus Graupner, a director also of the California Social Hygiene Society, gave many statistics of what has been done and what should be done on the coast and promised the co-operation and influence of the new but already well organized society to assist and strengthen all effort to secure proper legislative and medical endorsement.

The meeting was closed by Mrs. Andrew S. Rowan, giving a general resumé of what had been done to date and urging upon those present the consideration of the pressing needs of the future, that the benefits and blessings for which the prevention society stands, may be accomplished and not be an ephemeral hope but an act made into law, by the legislation of California.

### NEW AND NONOFFICIAL REMEDIES.

Since publication of New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1912, and in addition to those previously reported, the following articles have been accepted by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association for inclusion with "New and Nonofficial Remedies":

Neosalvarsan is a mixture of sodium 3—diamino—4—dihydroxyl—1—arsenobenzene—methanal—sulphoxylate,  $\text{NH}_2.\text{OH}.\text{C}_6\text{H}_4.\text{As}:\text{As}.\text{C}_6\text{H}_4.\text{OH}.\text{NH}(\text{CH}_2\text{O})\text{OSNa}$ , with inert inorganic salts. The arsenic content of three parts of neosalvarsan is approximately equal to two parts of salvarsan. Neosalvarsan is supplied in sealed tubes containing, respectively, 0.15 gm. (2 3-10 grains), 0.3 gm. (4 6-10 grains), 0.45 gm. (6 9-10 grains), 0.60 gm. (9 3-10 grains), 0.75 gm. (11 6-10 grains), 0.9 gm. (13 9-10 grains). It is readily soluble in water forming solutions which are neutral to litmus and very unstable. The action and uses are the same as those of salvarsan. The average single dose for man is 0.75 gm. (12 grains). It may be administered by intramuscular or, preferably, by intravenous injection. For intravenous injection 25 cc. freshly distilled water for each 0.15 gm. is to be used. For intramuscular injection 3 cc. of water should be used for each 0.15 gm. neosalvarsan, this yielding an approximately isotonic solution. Victor Koechl & Co., New York, (Jour. A. M. A., Sept. 14, 1912, p. 879).

Saloquinine, the salicylic ester of quinine, is described in New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1912. The product as sold by Merck & Co., New York, has also been admitted to N. N. R. (Jour. A. M. A., Sept. 14, 1912, p. 879).

Articles accepted for N. N. R. Appendix:

Mentrol-Iodol is a mixture of iodol 99 parts and menthol 1 part. Kalle & Co., New York (Jour. A. M. A., Sept. 14, 1912, p. 879).

### ERRATA.

In the October Journal Dr. Frances T. Weed was reported dead. Since publication we learn to the contrary.

### ERRATA.

On page 381, September Journal, appeared in Dr. Nagel's discussion the words "slight" instead of high, also "tendon" in place of tension.

### NEW MEMBERS.

Fenton, Lolita Blackett Day-Bew, Los Gatos.  
Bly, Fred H., Red Bluff, Cal.  
Brooks, C. H., Santa Ana, Cal.  
Bryan, George, Fullerton.  
Jackson, Paul K., San Luis Obispo.  
Edwards, Carrie Hitchcock, San Diego.  
Crise, Bruce L., Escondido, Cal.  
Giovannetti, R. P., San Francisco.  
Hirschler, D. Lee, San Francisco.  
Markel, H. H., San Francisco.  
Van Nuys, R. G., San Francisco.  
Mitchell, Elsie Reed, Berkeley, Cal.  
Strietmann, W. H., Oakland, Cal.  
Campbell, E. O., Santa Barbara.  
Pierce, R. E., Lindsay, Cal.

### RESIGNED.

Pring, Ernest, San Francisco.

### DEATHS.

Crepin, E. A., Glen Ellen, Cal. (Died in Alhambra, Cal.)  
Robinson, Wm. K., Los Angeles.  
Gray, A. J., San Diego.  
Billings, M. C., Oceanside.  
Doig, John R., Ramona, Cal.  
Stone, John B., San Diego.  
Kearney, J. F., 3672 20th st., San Francisco. (Died in Alaska, Sept. 13, 1912.)